UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 October 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-7,9-17,19-25,27-31,33-41,43-51,53-55 and 57-66* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-7,9-17,19-25,27-31,33-41, 43-51, 53-55, and 57-66* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to remarks filed by Applicant's representative on

October 8, 2008.

Response to Remarks

1.   With respect to Applicant's latest submission filed October 8, 2008, Applicant's

remarks / arguments with respect to the amended independent claims have been fully

considered but are deemed unpersuasive to overcome the rejection in view of the

applied prior art reference(s).

With respect to claims 1, 25, 49 and 53, Applicant argues that none of the prior

art references teach or disclose the recited feature of "associating the email event with a

second conversation related to the first conversation, the second conversation

comprising a second thread of related messages". The Office respectfully disagrees

and submits that Applicant has misinterpreted and/or not fully considered all of the

teachings and disclosures of the prior art reference(s).

With respect to the claims, and in support of his argument, Applicant remarks

that Gruen does not teach the above recited feature, and that neither Gross nor Belfiore

nor Dumais remedies the deficiencies of Gross with respect to the claim recitation.

Specifically, Applicant remarks that Gruen describes processing an email to form an

associated conversation thread tree, wherein the conversation thread tree is comprised

of an original (parent) emails and emails identified as replies (children) to the original

email. However, in this regard, Applicant remarks that Gruen associates the email with

only a 'single' conversation. Applicant further remarks that "if an email in the

conversation thread tree is deleted, the conversation thread tree is altered to include a

shadow document as a placeholder for the deleted email, but the resulting conversation

thread tree still represents the same conversation."

In response to the argument, the Office firstly remarks that the above newly

amended and recited feature of "associating the email event with a second conversation

related to the first conversation, the second conversation comprising a second thread of

related messages" is in fact expressly disclosed and taught by at least Gruen consistent

with the current presentation and language of the claim recitation. For example, and

with respect to Figure 6a, Gruen expressly illustrates and discloses at least a first

conversation comprising a first thread of related email messages (e.g., conversation

thread "602a -- 604a -- 608a" between Al and Bob) and a second conversation

comprising a second thread of related email messages that is related to the first

conversation (e.g., conversation thread "602a -- 606a" between Al and Charlie).

Alternatively, and with respect to Figure 6b, for example, Gruen again expressly

illustrates and discloses at least a first conversation comprising a first thread of related

email messages (e.g., conversation thread "602b – 606b" between Al and Charlie

regarding the subject matter of "Apples") and a second conversation comprising a

second thread of related email messages that is related to the first conversation (e.g.,

conversation thread "602b – 604b – 608b" between Al and Bob regarding the subject

matter of "Apples" and also "Bananas"). Moreover, and with respect to Figure 7, Gruen

again expressly discloses and illustrates at least a first, second, and third conversation

comprising a respective first, second, and third 'thread' of related email messages, and

the conversations related to the first conversation (702), each associated by an 'event'

(in this particular case, by *start / end time or date*, but may also include event

parameters such as *location, topic, type, participants, addresses or mail content*). The

newly amended and recited feature of "associating the email event with a second

conversation related to the first conversation, the second conversation comprising a

second thread of related messages" is thus expressly taught by at least Gruen.

Response to Amendments

1.   With respect to Applicant's latest submission, Applicant's claim amendments filed

July 9, 2007 have been fully considered but are now considered moot in light of the

following grounds of rejection provided below for the current set of pending claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth
> in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior
> art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was
> made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall
> not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-14, 16-17, 19-25, 27-31, 33-38, 40-41, 43-51 and 53-64 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belfiore et al, U.S. Patent

Publication US 2002/0059425 A1 in view of Gross et al, U.S. Patent 5,555,346 and in

further view of Gruen et al (hereinafter Gruen), U.S. Patent Publication US

2005/0057584 A1.

As per Claims 1, 25, 49 and 53, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen

discloses the method comprising:

determining an occurrence of a condition indicating at least one transfer of an

email message by an email application, wherein determining the occurrence of the

condition is external to the email application [Abstract] [Fig. 1] [0006] [0015] [0018]

[0020-0021 & 0023] [0054] [also Section L: Scenarios, 0241];

identifying event data associated with the email message (Belfiore: e.g., New Message Event & Message UID) [Abstract] [Figs. 3a-c];

compiling an email event from at least some of the event data (Belfiore: e.g. persistent event queue) [Figs. 3a-c, 8, & 9];

associating the email event with a first conversation based at least in part on the event data (Belfiore: i.e., message 'conversation') [Fig. 3i], the conversation comprising a thread of related email messages (Gruen: i.e, "*Electronic Mail Document Conversation Thread*") [0005] [0012-0013] (Conversation Thread Tree / Hierarchy) [00525] [0054] [Figs. 6a-b, 7, & 8a-d], the first conversation comprising a thread of related email messages [Gruen: Figs. 6a-b & 7];

associating the email event with a second conversation related to the first conversation, the second conversation comprising a second thread of related email messages [Gruen: Figs 6a-b & 7]; and

storing the email event, the association with the first conversation, the association with the second conversation, and the email message (Belfiore: message store) [Fig. 11a].

While Belifiore discloses substantial features of the invention, he does not expressly disclose the recited features of identifying event data associated with the email message, compiling an email event from at least some of the event data, associating the email event with a conversation based at least in part on the event data;

and storing the email event, the association with the conversation and the email

message. The features are taught by Gross in a related endeavor.

Gross discloses as his invention an event driven and conditional rule based mail

messaging system which can be transparently implemented for use in electronic mail

applications. A rule mechanism is implemented having a "When-If-Then" event-driven,

conditional, action-invoking paradigm or "triplet" which permits definition of a repertoire

of events considered to be significant events upon which to trigger actions in the

electronic mail messaging system. Each particular 'event' may be associated with a

specific mail message and/or rules to promote efficient mapping of messages, events

and rules so that only rules associated with a specific event are invoked upon

occurrence of the event. Only relevant rules, i.e. those associated with a satisfied

event, need be further processed. A graphical user interface to a structured rule editor

facilitates synthesis of rules by a user via a substantially transparent rule engine. A

modular architecture for the structured rule editors effects an extensible and portable

facility invoking selected rule scripting language to implement various

functions in the context of various electronic mail messaging environments [Abstract].

In particular, Gross discloses the recited features of identifying event data

associated with the email message (e.g., New Message Event & Message UID)

[Abstract] [Figs. 3a-c], compiling an email event from at least some of the event data

(e.g. persistent event queue) [Figs. 3a-c, 8, & 9], associating the email event with a

conversation based at least in part on the event data (i.e., message

'conversation') [Fig. 3i]; and storing the email event, the association with the

conversation and the email message (message store) [Fig. 11a].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine and/or modify Belfiore's invention with the additional features of

identifying event data associated with the email message, compiling an email event

from at least some of the event data, associating the email event with a conversation

based at least in part on the event data; and storing the email event, the association

with the conversation and the email message, as disclosed by Gross, for the motivation

of providing a flexible, efficient, event-driven and conditional rule based system which

can be transparently implemented for use, e.g., in electronic mail applications [Abstract]

[col 2, L35-41].

Further, while the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial

features of the invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method further

comprising associating the email event with a first conversation based at least in part on

the event data, wherein the first conversation comprises a first thread of related email

messages, and associating the email event with a second conversation related to the

first conversation, the second conversation comprising a second thread of related email

messages is disclosed by Gruen in a related endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail

which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity.

The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles

of: 1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important; 3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward over time [Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature of the method further comprising associating the email event with a first conversation based at least in part on the event data, wherein the first conversation comprises a first thread of related email messages (Gruen: i.e, "*Electronic Mail Document Conversation Thread*") [0005] [0012-0013] (Conversation Thread Tree / Hierarchy) [00525] [0054] [Figs. 6a-b, 7 & 8a-d]; and associating the email event with a second conversation related to the first conversation, the second conversation comprising a second thread of related email messages [Gruen: Figs 6a-b & 7].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Grosswith the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail tools which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to electronic mail [0007-0009].

Claims 49 and 53 are likewise rejected on the same basis as claims 1 and 25, since they recite the same features and are distinguished only by their statutory category.

As per Claims 3 and 27, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the <u>at least</u>

<u>one</u> transfer comprises receiving the email message [0054] [0087] [0111] [0133-0134]

[0193].

As per Claims 4 and 28, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the <u>at least</u>

<u>one</u> transfer comprises sending the email message [0006] [0062] [0171][also Section G.

Messaging [0143] (e.g. email)] [0194].

As per Claims 5 and 29, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the email

application comprises a client-based email application [Fig. 1] [0047] [0143].

As per Claims 6 and 30, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the email

application comprises a network-based email application [Fig. 1] [0047] [0143].

As per Claims 7 and 31, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the email

application comprises a client-based email application and a network-based email

application [Fig. 1] [0047] [0143].

As per Claims 9 and 33, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein determining

the occurrence of the condition comprises determining if files associated with the email

application have been updated [0018] [0079-0080] (e.g. Update & Notification

Services).

As per Claims 10 and 34, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein determining

the occurrence of the condition comprises determining if an email related operating

system condition has occurred [0143] [0244] [0267] (e.g. related messages such as

voice and text/email messages).

As per Claims 11 and 35, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the

operating system condition comprises an email icon output on a display associated with

a client device [0006].

As per Claims 12 and 36, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the

operating system condition comprises an email message box output on a display

associated with a client device [0070] [0086] [0143].

As per Claims 13 and 37, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the

operating system condition comprises determining metadata for an email indicator

associated with the email message displayed in the email application [0155-0156] [0233].

As per Claims 14 and 38, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the email application comprises a network-based email application and determining the occurrence of the condition comprises analyzing a web page associated with the network-based email application [0007-0008] [0194].

As per Claims 16 and 40, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein determining the occurrence of the condition comprises determining an email protocol [0173] and an email server based on analysis of settings associated with the email application or network traffic (e.g. system/application settings) [0114].

As per Claims 17 and 41, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 16, further comprising periodically polling the email server for new email messages [0020].

As per Claims 19 and 43, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein associating the email event with a conversation comprises:

   determining if an existing conversation relevant to the email event exists [0102] [0105] [0111] [0267];

associating the email event with the existing conversation if the existing conversation

is determined to be relevant to the email event [0102] [0105] [0111] [0267]; and

associating the email event with a new conversation if no existing conversation is

determined to exist that is relevant to the email event [0102] [0105] [0111] [0267].

As per Claims 20 and 44, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 19, wherein

determining if an existing conversation relevant to the email event exists comprises an

analysis of the event data associated with the email event [0102] [0105] [0111] [0267]

[also Section E. Events, 0119, 0127, 0133-0134].

As per Claims 21 and 45, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 20, wherein the

analysis of the event data comprises analysis of one or more of email message subject,

date, content, sender and recipients [0023] [0073] [0111] [0127] [0213].

As per Claims 22 and 46, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 19, wherein

determining if an existing conversation relevant to the email event exists comprises

determining a conversation ID associated with the email message [also Section E.

Events, 0119, 0127, 0133-0134] (i.e. Global ID) [0201].

As per Claims 23 and 47, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein event data

comprises at least one of sender data, a date and time associated with the event, and

content from the email message [0023] [0073] [0111] [0127] [0213].

As per Claims 24 and 48, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 1, wherein event data

comprises a conversation ID (i.e. Global ID) [0201].

As per Claims 50 and 54, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 49, wherein the email

application comprises a client-based email application [Fig. 1] [0047] [0143].

As per Claims 51 and 55, Belfiore discloses the method of claim 49, wherein the email

application comprises a network-based email application [Fig. 1] [0047] [0143].

As per Claims 57 and 61, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen

discloses the method of claim 1, wherein associating the email event with the

conversation comprises analyzing a message body of the email message to determine

a topic of the email message.

While the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial features of the

invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method wherein associating the

email event with the conversation comprises analyzing a message body of the email

message to determine a topic of the email message is disclosed by Gruen in a related

endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail

which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity.

The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles of:

1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important;

3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward over time

[Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature

of the method wherein associating the email event with the conversation comprises

analyzing a message body of the email message to determine a topic of the email

message (Gruen: e.g., "Search Message Body for Permutation" 987) [Fig. 8d].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Gross with the above said

additional feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail

tools which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to

electronic mail [0007-0009].

As per Claims 58 and 62, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen

discloses the method of claim 1, wherein associating the email event with the

conversation comprises analyzing an email attachment of the email message to

determine a topic of the email message.

While the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial features of the invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method wherein associating the email event with the conversation comprises analyzing an email attachment of the email message to determine a topic of the email message is disclosed by Gruen in a related endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity. The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles of: 1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important; 3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward over time [Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature of the method wherein associating the email event with the conversation comprises analyzing an email attachment of the email message to determine a topic of the email message (Gruen: e.g., "scanning of document content or any of its attachments) [Fig. 8a] [0053].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Gross with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail tools which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to electronic mail [0007-0009].

As per Claims 59 and 63, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen

discloses the method of claim 1, wherein email messages in the thread of related email

each have at least some subject text in common.

While the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial features of the

invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method wherein email

messages in the thread of related email each have at least some subject text in

common is disclosed by Gruen in a related endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail

which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity.

The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles of:

1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important;

3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward over time

[Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature

of the method wherein email messages in the thread of related email each have at least

some subject text in common (Gruen: e.g., "Subject: Apples") [Fig. 6a].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Gross with the above said additional

feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail tools

which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to electronic

mail [0007-0009].

As per Claims 60 and 64, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen discloses the method of claim 1, wherein associating the email event with a first conversation comprises analyzing a time gap between the email event and the related email messages in the first conversation; and responsive to the time gap exceeding a certain amount of time, associating the email event with a new conversation.

While the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial features of the invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method wherein associating the email event with a first conversation comprises analyzing a time gap between the email event and the related email messages in the first conversation; and responsive to the time gap exceeding a certain amount of time, associating the email event with a new conversation is disclosed by Gruen in a related endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity. The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles of: 1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important; 3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward *over time* [Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature of the method wherein associating the email event with a first conversation comprises analyzing a time gap between the email event and the related email messages in the first conversation; and responsive to the time gap exceeding a certain amount of time, associating the email event with a new conversation (Gruen: e.g., "Event data includes Start and End Times" of email conversations) [Abstract].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Gross with the above said additional

feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail tools

which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to electronic

mail [0007-0009].

As per Claims 65 and 66, Belfiore in view of Gross and in further view of Gruen

discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the first thread includes the email event and

the second thread is absent the email event.

While the combination of Belfiore and Gross discloses substantial features of the

invention, as above, the additional recited feature of the method wherein the first thread

includes the email event and the second thread is absent the email event is disclosed

by Gruen in a related endeavor.

Gruen discloses as his invention an improved inbox or viewer for electronic mail

which allows for greater integration of functions to enhance usability and productivity.

The inventive electronic mail inbox of the present invention is based on the principles of:

1) bring all communications together into one place; 2) help focus on what's important;

3) find the information and people needed; and 4) keep things moving forward *over time*

[Abstract] [0010]. In particular, Gruen expressly discloses the additionally recited feature

of the method wherein the first thread includes the email event and the second thread is

absent the email event (Gruen: e.g., "data associated with an event may vary in detail and scope according to designer preferences, but will typically include *'start' and 'end' times, topic, type* {i.e., electronic mail content / threads}) [Abstract].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Belfiore and Gross with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Gruen, for the motivation of providing electronic mail tools which facilitate greater efficiency in viewing, processing and responding to electronic mail [0007-0009].

2. Claims 15 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belfiore in view of Dumais et al (hereinafter Dumais), U.S. Patent Publication US 2004/0267700 A1.

As per Claims 15 and 39, Belfiore in view of Dumais discloses the method of claim 1, wherein determining the occurrence of the condition comprises determining if a packet or packets received from a network comprises an email protocol [Dumais 0082] [Fig. 9].

While Belfiore discloses substantial features of the invention such as the method of claim 1 comprising determining the occurrence of a condition indicating at least one email message transfer by an email application, wherein determining the occurrence of the condition is external to the email application [Abstract] [Fig. 1] [0006] [0015] [0018]

[0020-0021 & 0023] [0054] [also Section L: Scenarios, 0241]; identifying the email

message (Protocol_824, i.e., SOAP) [Fig. 7] [0111], and 'indexing' [0203], he does not

expressly disclose the feature of the method wherein determining the occurrence of the

condition comprises determining if a packet or packets received from a network

comprises an email protocol. The feature is disclosed by Dumais.

Dumais, in a similar endeavor, discloses as his invention a system and method

providing content-access based information retrieval. A usage analyzer determines

user accessed items and a content analyzer stores subsets of data corresponding to the

items. An automated indexing component indexes the data subsets according to past

data access patterns as determined by the usage analyzer. A search component

responds to a search query, initiates a search across the indexed data [Abstract].

In particular, Dumais discloses that the present invention provides a unified index of

information that a person has observed, whether it be *email*, web pages, office

documents, calendar appointments, and so forth. Dumais' invention integrates

disparate information sources into a single *index* that can be queried for information

retrieval. Indexing happens automatically and is triggered by ongoing user activity, such

as reading email messages [0005]. Dumais additionally discloses the 'storing of event

data' for information content such as emails [0023-0024], and that possible

communication between a client_910 and a server_930 may be in the form of a 'data

packet' adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes [0082] [Fig.

9].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to combine Belfiore's invention with the feature of the method wherein determining the

occurrence of the condition comprises determining if a packet or packets received from

a network comprises an email protocol, as disclosed by Dumais, for the motivation of

facilitating access-based retrieval of information or data [0001] [0021].

Conclusion

1.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP 706.06(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

2.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

`extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenford Madamba whose telephone number is 571-272-7989. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Wallace Martin can be reached on 571-272-3440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/John Follansbee/   Glenford Madamba
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451   Examiner
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